

**CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES COLLABORATIVE COMMISSION**  
**MEETING NOTES – SEPTEMBER 9, 2015**  
**CITY HALL, SISTER CITIES**

**ATTENDANCE**

**Present**

Gisselle Brown	Stacey Joyner	Tammy Mann
William Campbell	Gwendolyn Lewis	Gwen Mullen
William Chesley	Councilman Tim Lovain	Sonia Price
Kate Garvey	Mike Mackey	Anthony R. Smith
J. Glenn Hopkins	Gerald Mann	Kendallee Walker

**Excused Absent**

Councilman John Chapman	Brian Orrenamaa	Eric Williams
Rose Dawson	Margaret Walsh	Marc Williams
Jeffrey Murphy		

**Unexcused Absent**

Sean McEneaney	Joyce Rawlings	Carlos Suber
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**Staff**

Jacqueline Coachman	Ron Frazier	Deborah Warren
Carol Farrell		

**Guests**

Alan Lomax

**WELCOME**

Chair Tammy Mann called the meeting to order with a welcome to Dr. Julie Crawford, Chief of Student Services, Alternative Programs and Equity, ACPS. Dr. Crawford was representing Margaret Walsh in her absence.

**REVIEW & APPROVAL OF DRAFT JUNE MINUTES**

Gwen Mullen moved approval of the minutes of the June meeting as submitted. The motion was seconded by Kate Garvey and passed unanimously.

**REVIEW & APPROVAL OF DRAFT CYFCC ANNUAL REPORT**

The draft annual report was approved with corrections on a motion from Gwen Mullen and a second from Gwen Lewis. The motion passed unanimously.

**COMMISSIONER RESPONSIBILITIES**

Deborah Warren briefed commissioners on the distinction between an excused absence and an unexcused absence. Section 2-4-7(i)(1) of the City Code requires appointees to committees to attend at least 75% of the committee meetings and prescribes that “absences are excused for the following reasons: personal illness or serious illness of members of the immediate family, death of a family member, unscheduled or unforeseen business trips, and emergency work

assignments. All other absences should be recorded as unexcused". Chair Mann asked commissioners to reacquaint themselves with Title 12 of the Code of General Ordinances, which established the Children, Youth & Families Collaborative Commission.

#### **DISCUSSION: A WAY FORWARD FY2016**

Chair Mann provided an overview of the discussion at the last Executive Committee regarding how to proactively plan the way forward. It was agreed the year should start off with a great deal of clarity as to what is to be achieved by the end of the year. This is especially critical since the responsibility for implementation does not rest with CYFCC. The importance of support for the back bone organization was stressed as well as the need for additional staff resources to support the implementation process. Commissioners will determine at the October meeting those strategies that will be priorities. The contractor hired to support the establishment of a backbone organization will identify the key activities needed to accomplish those priorities. A presentation on the key activities as well as timelines will be made at the November meeting.

Kate Garvey advised compilation of a catalogue of what is already underway and how those initiatives impact CYP goals. There should also be an assessment of the specific resources that are needed and the role of certain groups. She further advised that there be clarity as to the priorities as well as the expectations regarding those priorities. Chair Mann stated an item on the November meeting agenda will be the structure of committees in light of those priorities and how committees can position themselves to support the priorities.

The temporary position that will support CYMP implementation was discussed by Ms. Garvey. A contract will be issued for the position of project manager and that arrangement is expected to commence in September (or as soon as possible). There is a need for a robust team to support the project manager, but the issue is how the fund that team. It is hoped the Bruhn-Morris Family Foundation will invest in a staff person to support the Early Care and Education Work Group. Chair Mann recommended that clear parameters be set around what is to be achieved this year given available resources.

Gwen Mullen asked how funding will be handled and how commissioners can be helpful. One strategy is to seek out passionate funders as recommended in the book "The Cathedral Within" by Bill Shore, which advised looking for a partner rather than grants. The question is how to do that in such a way that assures alignment with nonprofits. Ms. Garvey said what is required is a private/public partnership since the City does not have the resources to fully fund plan implementation. Stacey Joyner recommended further discussion of how priorities will be established and how the project manager and City Schools Staff Group (CSSG) will weigh in. Ms. Garvey added CYFCC to that list. Chair Mann said priorities will come to the commission via CSSG. Ms. Garvey said the children deserve all the support and the charge is to determine how that is done.

#### **CHILDREN & YOUTH MASTER PLAN IMPLEMENTATION COORDINATION & UPDATES**

Chair Mann posed a question to begin the discussion: How do we communicate work around the Plan? How do we create opportunities to discuss progress? Her recommendation was that CYFCC build its own presence in this work by the end of the year. Ms. Mullen advised that commissions and groups not connected to the plan be engaged. One way to do that is to identify

in very practical terms what they have to gain by supporting the plan. It was also suggested that a quarterly report on implementation process be instituted.

Selecting one or two priority issues a year that are concrete was the recommendation of Glenn Hopkins. The commission can convene and invite partners on issues such as bullying or youth violence; conduct three or four activities a year; act as a catalyst and convener, and shine a light on key issues/activities. Alan Lomax noted none of the youth attending the Youth Leadership conference in August were familiar with the Children and Youth Master Plan nor the ACPS Strategic Plan. Youth groups should have input on priority issues and Mr. Lomax advised a conversation with youth leaders at T.C. Williams. He also endorsed the idea of two priorities each year, identifying the groups already working on those priorities as well as the gaps, and bringing it all together under big umbrella. Mr. Hopkins said the priorities should be big, an example being safety and children. Health is another big issue. CYFCC can collect information and make recommendations. The community would appreciate ongoing information regarding the big issues.

Gwen Lewis recommended a focus on the critical issues of middle school students. There is a need to create urgency around concerns that should be addressed immediately, such as a safety net to decrease dropouts. In addition, there is a need for a focus on safety. Ms. Mullen noted that when youth cannot read, they act out. Ms. Lewis advised that CYFCC be looking at a triage approach, such as a safety net to decrease dropouts.

Kendallee Walker endorsed the need to get youth more involved because their input is critical to a full understanding of such issues as what they need, how that can be addressed, and what the priorities should be. She cited the success of the International Academy in using youth to better engage parents.

Chair Mann said CYFCC will identify two critical issues and delineate a process for taking them to the next level. Ms. Garvey noted discussions have already begun with the Early Care and Education Work Group regarding backbone strategies. The key piece is the role of CYFCC. Bill Campbell noted one topic of a meeting between the PTA and Superintendent Alvin Crawley was the roll-out of the ACPS Strategic Plan. He stressed the need for a clear distinction between the ACPS plan and the CYMP. Chair Mann suggested the Implementation Committee take a look at the roll-out process.

There was discussion of a draft letter prepared in support of Ramsay Homes, a 15-unit ARHA property located on N. Patrick Street between Wythe and Pendleton. The hearing is scheduled for the third week in September. Bill Campbell stated the issue is not a simple one and requires more study. It was the opinion of Mr. Hopkins that while CYFCC supports affordable housing, it may not be the best time for CYFCC to support this particular project. Chair Mann said this matter will be revisited in October.

The need for a strategy to bring the plan forward in a digestible way was indicated by Ms. Garvey. CYFCC should be ready to hear back from the community and plan for responsiveness because not responding to the community is not acceptable. Ms. Walker and Jacqueline Coachman were tasked with devising a process for youth input on plan priorities. Ms. Garvey

also advised a process be developed with the Early Care and Education Work Group regarding governance. Some models have been discussed that would facilitate more structure in the future. It was the recommendation of Mr. Campbell that the Rollout Committee for the ACPS Strategic Plan include a CYFCC representative to assure the right emphasis on both plans. Within a week the Implementation Committee is to assess the crosswalk between the CYMP and ACPS Strategic Plan that was prepared by ACPS, and determine the most important talking points regarding the link between the plans.

#### **COMMITTEE CYMP WORK**

In his capacity as Chair of the Advocacy Committee, Mr. Hopkins reported the bulk of work accomplished last year with regard to CYFCC's legislative agenda can be used this year. Objectives that were accomplished last year will be deleted from the agenda for the current year.

Committees met for the remainder of the meeting to discuss next steps in the CYMP process and agree upon a date for the next committee meeting.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Alan Lomax announced the Partnership for a Healthier Alexandria is convening a meeting on the Community Health Plan at 8:15 a.m. on September 29 at the offices of DCHS (2525 Mount Vernon Avenue).

City Council meets with the legislative delegation at September 30 at 5 p.m.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Ms. Joyner and a second by Ms. Garvey, the meeting adjourned 8:45 p.m.